

**JUNIOR ORDER OF THE UNITED AMERICAN MECHANICS
RICHLAND COUNCIL 16
RECORDS 1896 - 1971**

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INTRODUCTION

The Richland Council 16, Junior Order of the United American Mechanics records contain minute books, pledge books, records of dues, and additional printed materials. Richland Council 16 was the local (Nashville, Tennessee) chapter of the national organization. Founded in 1853, the Junior Order replaced the former United American Mechanics organization originally founded in 1845. Primarily a fraternal society based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, it also offered benefit life insurance to members. Very little information is available about this organization. The records themselves show a rapid decrease in membership from the late 1940's to 1970. The organization is no longer referenced in current editions of the *Encyclopedia of American Associations*, and it may have either disbanded, changed names, or joined with another organization.

The records were donated to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by Michael Ames of Nashville, Tennessee, in 1990 and were filmed on microfilm. There are no restrictions on use of the materials.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Richland Council 16, Junior Order of the United American Mechanics Records are organized alphabetically by document type. The constitution and by-laws in Box 1, Folder 1 and the ritual manual in Box 6 Folder 4 provide basic organization information, and the minute books give a brief record of the meetings and activities, as well as lists of members. The minute books from 1915 to 1923, 1936 to 1939, and 1942 to 1945 are missing, but aside from these three exceptions, the records are complete from 1896 through 1971. The extent of the collection is approximately 3.5 cubic feet.

CONTAINER LIST

BOX 1

Folder 1 - Constitution and By-laws, 1949
Folder 2 - Financial Report, 1955, 1956
Folder 3 - Membership Book, 1927 - 1930
Folder 4 - Membership Dues Book - 1955 - 1969
Folder 5 - Membership List, Undated
Folder 6 - Minute Book, 1896 - 1898
Folder 7 - Minute Book, 1898 - 1901
Folder 8 - Minute Book, 1901 - 1903

BOX 2

Folder 1 - Minute Book, 1903 - 1905
Folder 2 - Minute Book, 1906 - 1907
Folder 3 - Minute Book, 1908 - 1909
Folder 4 - Minute Book, 1909 - 1912

BOX 3

Folder 1 - Minute Book, 1912 - 1915
Folder 2 - Minute Book, 1923 - 1925
Folder 3 - Minute Book, 1925 - 1928
Folder 4 - Minute Book, 1928 - 1931

BOX 4

Folder 1 - Minute Book, 1939 - 1942
Folder 2 - Minute Book, 1945 - 1947
Folder 3 - Minute Book, 1947 - 1949

BOX 5

Folder 1 - Minute Book, 1952 - 1955
Folder 2 - Minute Book, 1955 - 1959
Folder 3 - Pledge Book, 1903 - 1908
Folder 4 - Pledge Book, 1908 - 1910
Folder 5 - Pledge Book, 1919 - 1928

BOX 6

Folder 1 - Pledge Book, 1930 - 1934
Folder 2 - Pledge Book, 1947 - 1971
Folder 3 - Proceedings Book, 1957
Folder 4 - Ritual Manual, 1957

BOX 7

Minute Book, 1931 - 1936 (Oversized)